



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

**Nathan Deal**  
Governor

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**Bobby Cagle, MSW**  
Commissioner

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**Bright from the Start Commissioner Bobby Cagle is Pleased with Updated Pre-K Plan**

**ATLANTA, Ga., (March 8, 2011)** – Governor Nathan Deal announced updated changes to his proposal for Georgia's Pre-K Program. Commissioner Bobby Cagle shared the following statement.

I am very pleased about the adjusted plan for Georgia's Pre-K Program. The Governor brought many stakeholders together to fine tune a strategy that will help Georgia remain at the forefront in providing top-notch, high-quality educational experiences for Georgia's four-year-old children.

The Governor's proposal will save the essential \$54 million, helping to ensure the continuity of the nationally recognized Pre-K Program.

Governor Deal offered the following programmatic adjustments:

- The school year will be shortened from 180 to 160 days.
- Class size will be increased to 22 students from 20. Since all Georgia's Pre-K classes have a paraprofessional in the room, the student to teacher ratio will max out at 11 to 1.
- An additional 2,000 Pre-K slots will be added, bringing Georgia's Pre-K enrollment to 86,000.
- Providers will receive 94 percent of the operating funds they currently receive.
- Pre-K teachers will receive 90 percent of their current salaries. (The original half-day proposal included a 30 percent reduction.)
- Pre-K will remain a 6.5 hour per day program.

The additional 2,000 slots will allow more of Georgia's four-year-olds to successfully prepare for the rigors of kindergarten. Hopefully, as revenues allow, we will eventually be able to expand the program to a full school year in the future.